

# BLACK REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOTS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 1776, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1776) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of black Revolutionary War patriots and the 275th anniversary of the first black Revolutionary War patriot, Crispus Attucks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 5428

(Purpose: To provide a complete substitute)

Mr. LOTT. Senator D'AMATO has a substitute amendment at the desk. I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT], for Mr. D'AMATO, proposes an amendment numbered 5428.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

## COMMEMORATIVE COIN BILL

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, today I rise to offer the Commemorative Coin Act of 1996, an amendment to H.R. 1776, the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Act.

This measure incorporates the commemorative coin initiatives that have not only successfully garnered overwhelming support in the Senate, as well as the endorsement of the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee, but coin initiatives that have also been unanimously agreed to by the House of Representatives.

Commemorative coins are collectibles that raise the public's awareness of events that molded our Nation, of the personal sacrifice and contribution from outstanding leaders, and of historic sites and fantastic natural monuments.

We have already been successful in achieving our goal of Commemorative Coin reforms. These reforms are the result of the outcry for boycotts among numismatists nationwide and the losses commemorative programs have been experiencing over the last few years. I called for a study of the commemorative coin program by the Government Accounting Office in July 1995. The report was not issued until August 1996.

The message in the report was simple—either take steps to reform commemorative programs or continue on the same path of burdening the taxpayer. After negotiations with the House, we were able to reach an agreement that had the full support of the House, the Senate, the Citizens Com-

memorative Coin Advisory Committee and the U.S. Mint.

The reforms we now have are based on those sponsored by Representative MICHAEL CASTLE, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services. Congressman CASTLE's bill, H.R. 2614, which was supported overwhelmingly in the House, served as an appropriate foundation for the reforms. I commend Mr. CASTLE on his guidance and perseverance as it relates to commemorative coin program reforms.

The coin programs that this bill authorizes will give recognition to deserving, influential American citizens and historic figures such as Jackie Robinson, George Washington, Dolley Madison and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. For the first in the history of the Mint's commemorative coin program, we will honor not only the sacrifices and contributions made by African Americans during the Revolutionary War period, but Crispus Attucks, the first African American Revolutionary War patriot and colonist killed during the Boston Massacre.

In addition we will celebrate the 125th anniversary of our country's first national park—Yellowstone National Park. And on a more somber note, we will salute the selfless contributions that our Nation's law enforcement officers and their families have made in preserving public safety. These men and women are not enlisted for battle, yet they risk their lives everyday. And tragically enough, lives are lost so that others may live without the threat of crime.

The production and sale of commemorative coins allows the Treasury a means of decreasing the national deficit. Worthy causes also benefit from funds raised for worthwhile projects.

Yet we are well aware that as the commemorative coin market becomes more and more saturated, it is becoming more and more common for coin programs to post losses, significant losses—in millions of dollars. Profits realized through well received programs end up covering these losses. That is essentially how the Mint's Public Enterprise Fund operates. But, we cannot and should not become completely reliant upon the safety net of the Public Enterprise Fund.

In addition to the commemorative coin provisions, this legislation authorizes a study for the 50 States Circulating Commemorative Coin Programs. This temporary change to our currency could make history as well as teach history. Each State of the Union would be represented on the quarter in the order in which it joined the Union. Representation of all States would end 10 years from the inception of the circulating program.

Mr. President, the time has come to assure that the American taxpayer is protected from losses that commemorative coin programs may experience. The reforms we have adopted will ac-

complish just that. Simultaneously, those reforms will revitalize the commemorative coin program and preserve the hobby of collecting coins.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a summary of the amendments be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

### SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT

#### TITLE I

##### *Commemorative Coin Programs*

1. Jackie Robinson, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the breaking of the color barrier in major league baseball. Coins for July 1, 1997–July 1, 1998.

2. Dolley Madison, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the death of the wife of the fourth President of the United States. Coins for period 1999.

3. George Washington, commemorating the 200th anniversary of the death of the first President of the United States. Coins for period beginning May 1, 1999 and ending November 31, 1999.

4. Black Revolutionary War Patriots/Crispus Attucks, commemorating the 275th anniversary of the birth of the first American colonist killed in the Revolutionary War and all Black Revolutionary War Patriots. Coins for one year from January 1, 1998 through December 31, 1998.

5. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, commemorating the opening of the FDR Memorial in Washington, D.C. honoring the 32nd President of the United States. Coins for one year from May 15, 1997.

6. Yellowstone National Park, commemorating the 125th anniversary of the establishment of the Yellowstone National Park as the first national park in the United States. Coins for one year starting in 1999.

7. National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, commemorating the sacrifice and their families in preserving public safety. Coins for one year from December 15, 1997.

#### TITLE II

*National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Maintenance Fund*—establishes a revolving fund to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior.

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#### TITLE IV

##### *The Fifty States Commemorative Coin Study*

1. Authorizes a circulating coin program study utilizing the quarter dollar and a design chosen to represent each state as it joined the Union.

##### *Terms of the Members of the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee*

1. Terms to be limited to four years and to be staggered.

2. Members are not to be considered special Government employees.

3. Amends Section 5131 of Title 31, U.S.C., by striking subsection (c) regarding Presidential appointments.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in support of two commemorative coins that honor the memory of two great Americans and Virginians—George Washington and Dolley Madison. I have had the opportunity to speak at length in support of the George Washington commemorative coin and refer to my statement in the RECORD on June 20, 1996. However, I have not had the opportunity to speak in support of the Dolley Madison commemorative coin and so I will do so today.

The Dolley Madison commemorative coin will honor the 150th anniversary of her death in 1999. It is remarkable that this will be the first commemorative coin to honor a First Lady and only the third to honor a woman. It is fitting that Dolley Madison will be the first First Lady so honored.

Dolley Madison was, by all accounts, the originator of the role of first lady. She was such a compelling and popular figure that she acted as hostess for the widowed President, Thomas Jefferson, while her husband served as his Secretary of State. Thus, Dolley Madison's term as First Lady effectively extended from 1801 to 1817—over 16 years. Historians have maintained that Dolley Madison is the most famous and beloved of all the first ladies of the 19th century. She was the most important woman in Washington through the years of Thomas Jefferson's administration as well as Madison's. By nature kind, ebullient, and gracious—and married to a very shy man—Dolley Madison took on the responsibility of organizing the social activities that are essential to the affairs of state. In so doing, she set the standard for every first lady to come. This was more than throwing nice parties—it was the bridge between the work of official Washington and the private social life of the President and his family.

Dolley Madison was also a woman of action and decisiveness. During the War of 1812, when invading British troops burned the White House, Dolley Madison, at great personal risk, saved many important documents, books, and other materials from the White House, including an historic portrait of George Washington which she saved by rolling it up in a curtain as she departed. Dolley Madison's patriotism and civic bravery during this crisis of war were an inspiration to all and provided a much needed boost of morale to our beleaguered capital.

Dolley Madison was forced to sell the 2,700 acre estate at Montpelier in 1844. The estate changed hands 7 times before being bequeathed to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1984. Today, Montpelier consists of 2,700 acres: the 75 room main house, over 130 outbuildings, significant garden and landscape features, 800 acres of pasture and woodlands, and 200 acres of old-growth forest which have been identified as a national natural landmark.

Funds from the Dolley Madison commemorative coin, after the U.S. Mint recovers all its costs, will be used to preserve James and Dolley Madison's estate, Montpelier. The 5-year plan envisioned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation will include a Montpelier museum and the Madison center which will join forces to serve and educate the visiting public.

Mr. President, I strongly urge all Members to support this important legislation honoring these two great Americans and making possible the continued education of the American people about their accomplishments and contributions to our Nation.

## THE BLACK REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOTS

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I am delighted to note the passage of legislation I introduced with Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN to authorize the U.S. Mint to create a coin commemorating Crispus Attucks and the more than 5,000 African-American patriots who fought and died during the Revolutionary War. Our bill, S. 953, known as the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Commemorative Coin Act, was cosponsored by 63 Senators from both sides of the aisle and every region of our Nation. After approval by the Citizens' Commemorative Coin Advisory Commission, the companion bill, introduced by Representative NANCY JOHNSON, was approved unanimously by the House of Representatives.

In 1986, Congress approved construction on the National Mall of a memorial celebrating the lives of the African-American men and women who served, fought, and died during our Nation's Revolutionary War. Ironically, many of these brave Americans never experienced the freedom and independence for which they fought. A portion of the proceeds from sales of the coin will help to pay for construction of a memorial recognizing the contribution of these brave Americans.

As children in school, we all learn that Crispus Attucks was the first person to lose his life at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, but few of us learn about the valor and sacrifice of thousands of others who willingly fought to free a land that deprived them of freedom. Harriet Beecher Stowe put it this way,

They served a nation which did not acknowledge them as citizens and equals \* \* \*. It was not for their own land they fought, but for a land that enslaved them. Bravery under such circumstances, has particular beauty and merit.

The vast majority of African-Americans who served in the Continental Army were from New England, and a great number were from my State of Rhode Island. In fact, in 1778, Rhode Island approved the first slave enlistment act and the Black Regiment of Rhode Island was formed. This was one of only two all African-American regiments. The other was the Bucks of America of Boston.

Not only did these men serve our Nation, they served with distinction. Regrettably throughout our history, their valor has been overlooked and nearly forgotten. Men like Jack Sisson of Rhode Island, who expertly steered one of five boats involved in the daring capture of British Maj. Gen. Richard Prescott at Newport in 1777, are barely mentioned in historical reports of the incident.

Jack Sisson went on to join a regiment of some 200 African-American soldiers from my State, who, at the battle of Rhode Island, held their ground against several fierce attacks by British-Hessian forces, thereby allowing 6 American brigades to retreat.

With scant training, but abundant courage, the First Rhode Island Regiment inflicted casualties of 6 to 1 on the professional troops of the Redcoats.

Like African-American soldiers throughout the colonies, however, the soldiers of Rhode Island's First Regiment faced tragedy as well as triumph. In May, 1781, the unit suffered a surprise attack by the British cavalry at Pines Bridge, and 40 soldiers lost their lives. Two years later, the regiment was disbanded unceremoniously in Oswego, NY. According to the historian John Harmon, the soldiers were told to find their own way home, and many died while making the trip. Further, despite the promise of freedom which had been made in order to entice them to enlist, tragically, some of the soldiers were actually re-enslaved after their return.

Now, with the passage of this commemorative coin legislation, a monument honoring these forgotten patriots can be constructed on our Nation's Mall. The design for the memorial was approved recently, funds are being raised by the Patriots Foundation, and the recognition that these brave Americans deserve is near at hand.

I would like to give special thanks to Chairman D'AMATO and the majority leader who recognized the importance of this coin bill and took the steps necessary to enable its passage.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, I would like to make a few comments regarding H.R. 1776, the commemorative coin bill which has recently taken a great deal of the time of a number of Senators. In an effort to come to agreement on this package which contains coins for a number of very worthy causes, the bill directs that a marketing study be undertaken prior to the commencement of the Fifty State Coin Program.

Mr. President, I would like to clarify to my colleagues that this language is intended to ensure that this coin program will be successful. To that end it is very important that the U.S. Mint, which has the expertise in coin marketing, direct the study. In addition, language has been included in the package that directs that funds to pay for this study come from discretionary funds of the Department of the Treasury, and not from the U.S. Mint. Many Senators have not been satisfied with the conduct of the debate on this issue, and this language makes it clear that funds for this compromise study will not come from proceeds of the coin programs used to fund U.S. Mint operations, but rather from the Treasury Department.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I wish to thank all the people who worked hard on this issue. It sounds like a fairly simple process, to authorize the issuance of a commemorative coin. We have all found it is not such a simple process.

One of those coins with which I am particularly involved relates to issuing a coin on the 200th anniversary of the